Start of Pieter Kohnstam Family Collection

AR 11383

Sys #: 000200079

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AR 11383 1/1 Pieter Kohnstam Family Collection 1932-2002 Archives

Anecdotal stories from Furth

Willy Kohnstam

In May of 1918 was awarded the King Ludwig Cross. This cross was an honorary award medal for helping social and charitable causes during WWI.

M. Kohnstam & Co. located at 56-58 Nurnberger Str. This was built for the merchant M. Kohnstam, my great grandfather, between 1897 and 1898. It was a double building with a very unique entrance and granite stairs. The front is of sandstone. The architect of the building was Adam Egerer. He developed a new building style which he meshed into the street design of this time. This building was nominated as historical by the City of Furth.The building has a beautiful gable which has the date 1897 and some other crests.

The building was taken over and arianized by Gustav Schickendanz after WWII between 1945 and 1950. Today (2001) the building is functioning, to which some other sections have been aded in the back. The building serves as local headquarters for Die Quelle which is the largest merchandising company in Germany. All the valuable belongings and artworks that were in the building were either confiscated or taken over by Mr. Schickendanz with no repatriation to the Kohnstam family. Mr. Schickendanz passed away some years ago and was honored on his 100th birthday by Henry Kissinger (secretary of State under Pres Nixon and Ford) who did not seem to mind to honor an Aryan Nazi although he passes to be a Jewish person. Just as a by note to my grandchildren, the irony regarding the above is that Louis Kissinger the father of Henry was a mentor and teacher to my father Hans. He did this to earn pocket money to pay for his schooling.

The winter residences were:
22 Friedrichs Str., Furth. It now is the Werners Apartment Hotel. They then moved to Nurmergersse 61, 1st floor

Summer Residences:
The first one was located at Lindenstrasse 144, 1st floor. Each year, from May 1 till Oct 15th, until 1915. The second summer residence was Forsthaus Str. 49, Dambach. This villa had a fairly large and valuable art collection in addition to expensive dishes and tablecloths, etc. In the period of 1945 to 1950 a Dr Gut (sp) lived there. The wife of Dr. Gut was the sister of Ludwig Erhardt, (born in Furth) who became economy minister for Germany in the 1949. He became very well known and succeeded K. Adenauer as Chancellor of Germany in 1963. He visited this property many times.This is a very large property which was taken over by the State and subsequently was aryanized where a Mr. Josef Schafer took it over. Mr. Schafer was both on the board of directors of Grundig and German ambassador to Haiti. He was a tax dviser and not honest. His dealings were published in the press.

Moses Kohnstam (Moritz)

He lived on the back street of the office building. Between buildings on either side of the street, the first railroad was built which ran from Furth to Nurnberg. Many of the merchants and companies moved to this section, as it became a choice place. Many of these campanies were Jewish owned.







Denkmäler in Bayern

Heinrich Habel

Stadt Fürth



Denkmaltopographie Bundesrepublik Deutschland

DENKMALTOPOGRAPHIE BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND
KARL. M. LIPP-VERLAG.

Nürnberger Straße 41. Viergeschossiges *Wohnhaus* im späten Jugendstil, asymmetrischer Eckbau in Sandstein, mit polygonalem Eckerkerturm, Balkon-Erker-Gruppe im Süden und Breiterker im Osten, 1908/09 von Ebert und Müller; Einheit mit Maistraße 1.

Bauherr war der Bauunternehmer Wilhelm Horneber. Im Erdgeschoß befand sich ein Posiamt, in den Obergeschossen je drei Wohnungen mit drei bis vier Zimmern.

Nürnberger Straße 42. Siehe Nr. 38.

Nürnberger Straße 43. Dreigeschossiges Neurenaissance-*Mietshaus,* Sandstein, reich gegliedert, mit Flacherker an der abgeschrägten Ecke und malerischem Dachausbau, bez. 1887, von Leo Gran; Gruppe mit Nr. 45 und Maistraße 2/4/6.

Leo Gran jr., selbst Bauherr, verkaufte das Haus an den Bäckermeister Tobias Krauß.

Nürnberger Straße 45. Dreigeschossiges Neurenaissance-*Mietshaus,* Sandstein, reich gegliedert, mit Mansarddach und Zwerchgiebel, Schnitztor, 1886/87 von Leo Gran; Gruppe mit Nr. 43.

Von L. Gran – selbst Bauherr – an den Wirt Heinrich Hoffmann verkauft.

Nürnberger Straße 49. Viergeschossiges *Mietshaus* im barockisierenden Jugendstil, Putzbau, Erdgeschoß in Sandstein, mit zwischen Flacherkern eingespannten Gitterbalkonen und drei Zwerchgiebeln, 1910 von Fritz Walter.

Schnitztor; Durchfahrt mit Kassettentonne, Treppe mit neuklassizistischem Holzgeländer. Für den Schreinermeister Heinrich Tödter erbautes gutbürgerliches Mietshaus, ursprünglich mit Läden und Möbellager im Erdgeschoß, je einer Fünfzimmerwohnung in den Obergeschossen und den zugehörigen Dienstmädchenzimmern in der Mansarde.

Nürnberger Straße 50. Rückseite von Hornschuchpromenade 6 (siehe dort): entlang der Straße *Einfriedungsmauer* mit neubarocken Pfeilern, um 1898; ebenso hinter Hornschuchpromenade 5.

Nürnberger Straße 51. Viergeschossiges *Mietshaus* im barockisierenden Jugendstil, Sandstein, mit Flacherker und Gitterbalkon, Zwerchhaus über der rechten Hälfte, 1904/05 von Fritz Walter; Gruppe mit Tannenstraße 1.

Erbaut für den Bauunternehmer Paulus Reichel, dem auch Tannenstraße 1 gehörte.

Nürnberger Straße 56/58. Stattliches viergeschossiges *Geschäftshaus,* langgestreckte neubarocke Sandsteinfront mit drei Risaliten, Mansarddach und Zwerchhäusern, bez. 1897, von Adam Egerer.

Ehem. *Exporthaus Kohnstam,* jetzt Fa. Gustav Schickedanz *(Quelle).* Beispiel eines typisch späthistoristischen Geschäftshauses mit symmetrischer, palastartiger Schauseite. Für den Kaufmann M. Kohnstam 1897/98 als Doppelanlage errichtet, jeder Teil mit besonderer Einfahrt und Granittreppe; das Innere enthielt vom Souterrain bis zur Mansarde Lagerräume, die linke Hälfte im 1. Stock Büros und im 2. Stock ganz links eine kleine Wohnung. Später mehrfach Umbauten. 1931 von Fa. Schickedanz erworben.

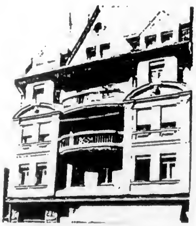
Nürnberger Straße 59. Viergeschossiges ...



Nürnberger Straße 41/Maistraße 1



Nürnberger Straße 50/Hornschuchpromenade 6





Das Exporthaus Kohnstam, Nürnberger Straße 56/58 (1897)

Erst zu Beginn des 19. Jahrhunderts, in den Jahren 1801 bis 1804, wurde die Nürnberger Straße, die direkte und schnurgerade Verbindung zwischen Fürth und Nürnberg, gebaut. Damals führte diese Straße durch Felder und Wiesen und hieß deshalb «Nürnberger Landstraße».

Als aber mit der Industrialisierung beide Städte wuchsen, wurde die Nürnberger Straße, eine ausgesprochene Verkehrsachse, in der zweiten Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts bebaut, und zwar nicht nur mit Wohnhäusern, sondern auch mit Fabriken und Großhandelshäusern.

Um ein solches handelt es sich beim Haus Nürnberger Straße 56/58, um das ehemalige Exporthaus des jüdischen Kaufmannes Kohnstam. 1897 hat es der damalige Fürther Top-Architekt Adam Egerer errichtet. Egerer baute u. a. auch mehrere Häuser in der Hornschuchpromenade, das Kaufhaus Tietz am Kohlenmarkt und die Hosenträgerfabrik Heymann in der Schwabacher Straße 117/119.

Das Exporthaus an der Nürnberger Straße bringt einen neuen Bautyp ins Straßenbild. Schon seine Größe macht deutlich, daß es kein Wohnhaus ist. Der symmetrische Bau mit 16 Fensterachsen ist, um nicht langweilig zu werden, in fünf Teile gegliedert. Der mittlere Teil tritt leicht hervor und ist durch aufwendigeren Schmuck und durch einen Giebel, auf dem das Erbauungsjahr angebracht ist, betont. Dann folgen rechts und links zwei einfachere Teile und die beiden wieder hervortretenden Seitenelemente mit den großen Portalen.

Der Baustil des ausgehenden 19. Jahrhunderts zeichnet sich durch reichen Fassadenschmuck aus. Der Besitzer wollte damit aber auch seinen Reichtum und die wirtschaftliche Bedeutung seines Exporthauses zum Ausdruck bringen.

Die Großhandlungen übernahmen den Verkauf von Produkten der vielen kleinen
ken in Fürth, die im Hof hinter den Hä
angesiedelt waren und oft nur ein bi
Personen beschäftigten. Sie konnten s
nen eigenen Vertrieb ihrer Waren nic
sten. An der Nürnberger Straße gibt e
solcher ehemaliger Großhandelshäus
exportierten vor allem Kurz- und Spiel
in alle Welt.



Der geschmückte Giebel mit dem Erbauungsjahr

68 Nürnberger Straße 56/58

Das ehemalige jüdische Exporthaus Kohnstam, 1897 von Adam Egerer in barocken Formen erbaut, bringt einen neuen Bautyp ins Straßenbild. Es ist ein sehr repräsentativer Bau, viel aufwendiger und größer als die Wohnhäuser der Umgebung. Seiner Funktion als Großhandelshaus entsprechend ist es sehr reich geschmückt. Der symmetrische, 16-achsige Bau ist in drei Teile und die zwei betonten Ecken gegliedert. Die Mitte wird als vierachsiger Risalit hervorgehoben und durch einen höheren Giebel, aufwendigeren Fassadenschmuck und andere Fensterformen betont. Auch die Ecken ragen als Risalite etwas hervor. Das große Handelshaus fällt mit seinen Ausmaßen aus dem Rahmen der Nachbarschaft, wenn man von den Nr. 38-42 absieht.

69 Nürnberger Straße 49 und 64 (gegenüber)

Die beiden Häuser sind im späten Jugendstil 1910 erbaut. Beide sind Putzbauten, die sich auf Steinsockeln erheben. Beide leben von der Spannung der Flacherker innerhalb der Fassade.



Bei **Nr. 64** sitzt der Segment-Erker asymmetrisch. Er erstreckt sich über zwei Stockwerke und endet in einem Balkon mit geometrischer Gitterverzierung. Der Erker ist von zwei breiten Lisenen aus Sandstein eingerahmt und damit besonders betont. Auch die Gesimse am Erker sind aus Sandstein. Auf der anderen Seite der Fassade sind

Ungl
Halb
im d
der a
gelch
groß
Spieg
Daß
den s

71

Auch
Männ
Erker
zur Ja



Das Exporthaus Kohnstam, Nürnberger Straße 56/58 (1897)

Mai 1995

nördlich einige der vornehmsten Fabrikanten- und Kaufmannsvillen Fürths, darunter auch das z. T. veränderte Haus Nr. 45 für Privatier Michael Friedrich (zweigeschossige Mansarddachvilla mit polygonalem Vorbau und Loggia, 1911 von Georg Böhner).

Forsthausstraße 40. *Villa Brünn* (jetzt Pillenstein), historisierende, repräsentative, malerische Mansarddachvilla, 1906/07 von Peringer und Rogler; Erker und Freitreppengeländer (beide skulptiert) 1929 von Hans Rogler; großer Garten mit Rustikapfeilerzaun und Gittertor, 1911.

Durch das damals führende Fürther Architekturbüro ließ sich der Fabrikant Carl Brünn außer den Werksgebäuden (siehe Badstraße 13 – 18) auch seine herrschaftliche Villa bei Dambach errichten. Sie ist mit ihrem asymmetrischen Grundriß und Baukörper, mit ihren unregelmäßig angeordneten Zwerchgiebeln und der Mischung von Naturstein und Putz ein typisches Beispiel der «malerischen» Architekturauffassung um die Jahrhundertwende. Die beiden Architekten entwarfen etwas später auch die aufwendige Einfriedung mit pelasgischem Quaderwerk und ein wenig ostasiatisch anmutender Torbedachung.

Die großzügige originale Innenraumgestaltung (Diele mit Treppe) ist in dem Tafelwerk «Die Stadt Fürth in Bayern» (1908) dokumentiert, aber bereits in den Zwanziger Jahren – Eigentümer war noch C. Brünn – verändert worden; aufwendigstes Detail der Neuausstattung ist das prächtige Art-Deco-Eichenholzgeländer im Treppenhaus.

Forsthausstraße 43. Historisierende, verputzte *Mansarddachvilla* mit Zwerchgiebel, 1912/13 von Georg Böhner.

Die für Fabrikbesitzer Gustav Löwensohn kurz vor dem Ersten Weltkrieg errichtete Villa verzichtet weitgehend auf Gliederung und Dekor, hält aber am traditionellen herrschaftlichen Grundtypus fest. Zeittypisch sind die Spiralformen an den Gittern einzelner Fenster und des Einfahrtstores.

ⓧ **Forsthausstraße 49.** Historisierende *Villa* mit Satteldach, zweigeschossiger Putzbau mit Hausteinglicderungen und -reliefs, durch Bogen links mit zweigeschossigem Nebengebäude verbunden, Gitterzaun, 1925 von Hans Rogler.

Herrschaftliche Villen wurden vielfach noch in den 20er Jahren in historisierenden Formen errichtet, mit denen bestimmte gesellschaftliche Vorstellungen und Gewohnheiten verbunden waren. Die an heimische Vorbilder verschiedener zeitlicher Provenienz – von Renaissance über Barock bis zum Frühklassizismus – anklingenden Hausteingliederungen sind zitathaft in die an sich schlichte Giebelfront eingesetzt, so die Portalädikula und das erkerartige, in die Fläche zurückgenommene Motiv in der Mittelachse, das Reliefs mit Wasservögeln zieren. Bauherr war der Großkaufmann Willy Kohnstam.

Forsthausstraße 57. Historisierende *Villa,* Putzbau mit Halbsäulen am Eingang, hohem Walmdach und Seitenflügel, 1916/17 von Ebert und Gross.

Die beiden verschieden hohen, versetzten Baukörper geben dem für den Bleistiftfabrikanten Max Illfelder errichteten Bau einen malerisch-abwechslungsreichen Charakter. Die Eingangsachse ist durch Torbogen der Einfriedung, Freitreppe, Segmentrisalit, dorische Portalsäulen und Bogenfeld mit Kartusche in vornehmer, repräsentativer Weise ak-



Dambach, Aldringerstraße 2



Aldringerstraße 4



Forsthausstraße 40



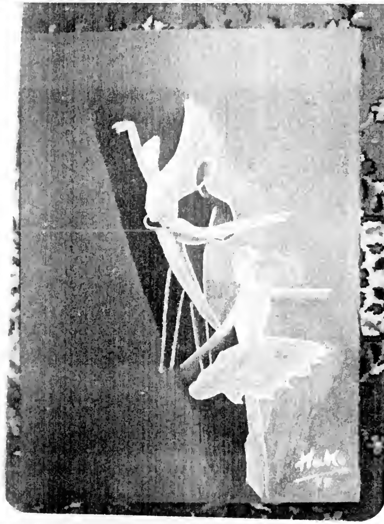
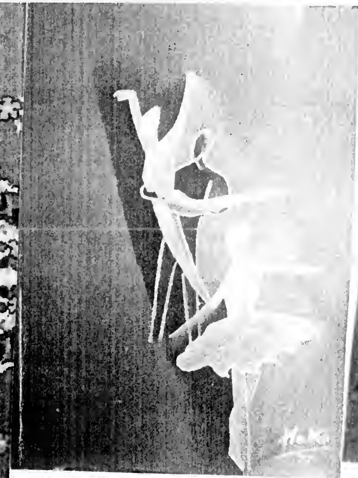
Forsthausstraße 49



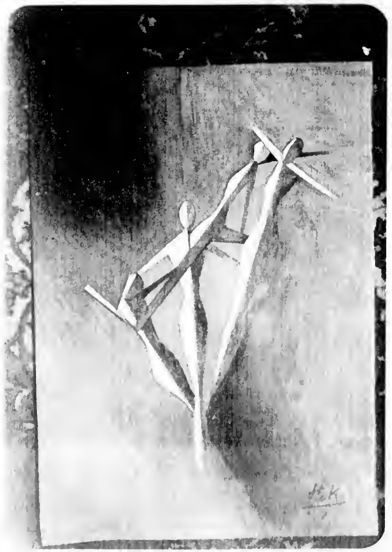
Forsthausstraße 40, Tr



ⓧ IN DAMBACH- H's SOMMER VILLA.

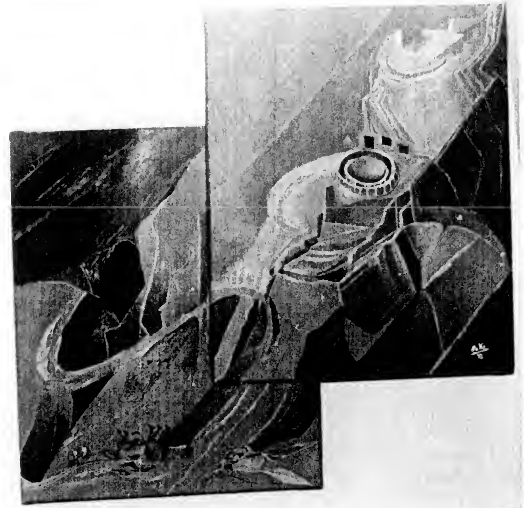




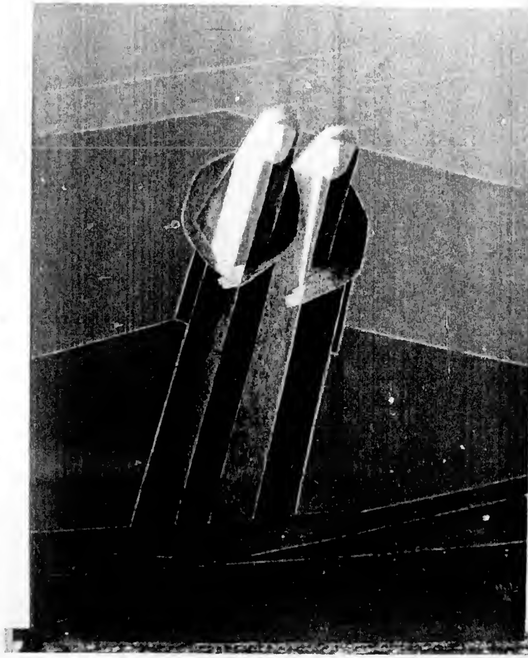




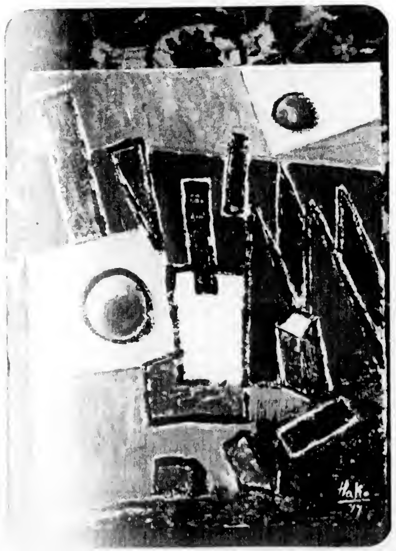






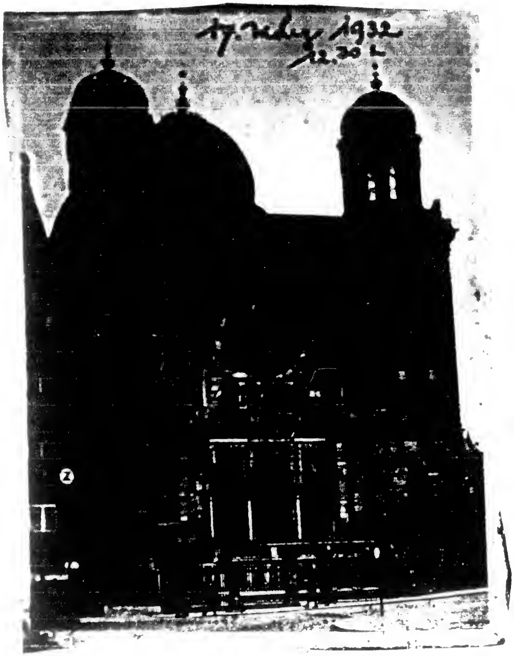








1.



Synagogue in Nürnberg,
17. march 1932
12 30 h.



Car arriving with bride + bridegroom

1. lady - dressmaker of wedding dress
2. Kokustam maid



Ruth in car

dressmaker

Hans

4



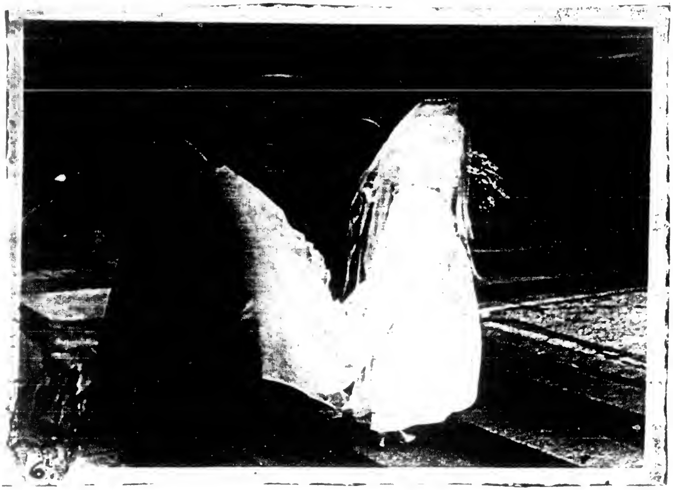
Shamus Ruth Hans dressmaker



Shamus

Ruth Hans

dressmaker



Shamus Hans Ruth



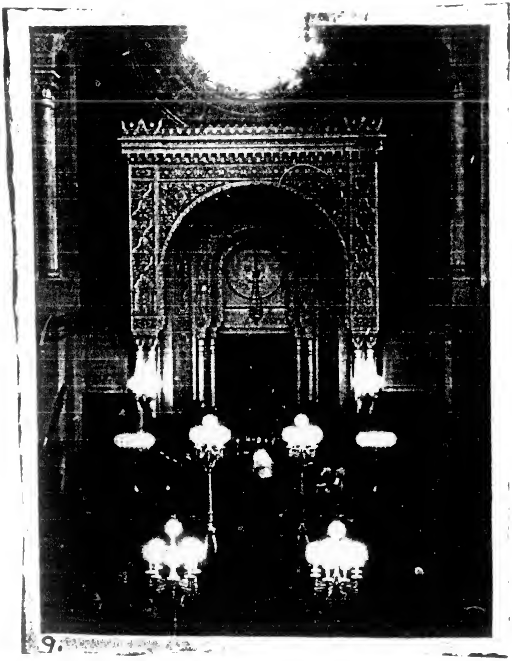
Shamus

Ruth Hans



Shamus

with Kims



9.

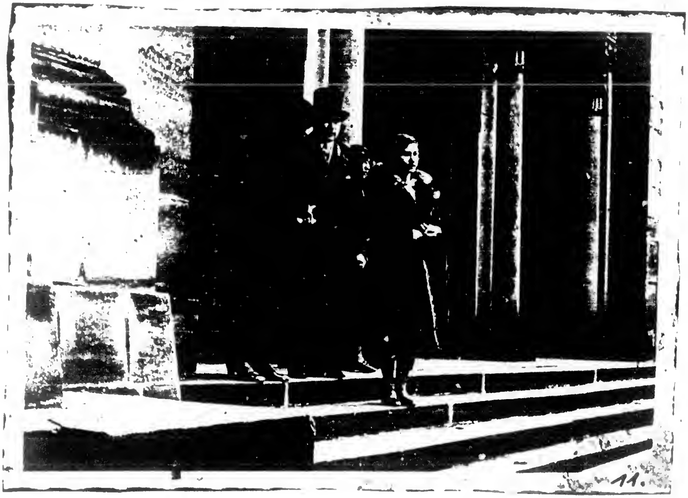
Ceremony in Synagogue

10



Ceremony

11



unknown

Dr Morgenstern + wife Leah Reis



Aunts - unidentified

13



Dr + Mrs Max Kohn



older Fred's great
Center lady - gmo
Jeanette Habermann

15



Ruth [illegible]



Shannie

Ruth Hann

17



Ruth Klein



Ruth Hans



Ernst Kohnstam

Frieda
the maid

Willy Kohnstam
(Hans' father)

Gustav Habermann
(Fred's father)

Edith's mother
Clara Habermann



20.

Lisa + Max Wetzler
from Dusseldorf
then London



Emma Lang
(Ruth's mo's sister)

Dr. Max Kohn's wife
(husband's bro was bro
of Hans mo)

Berta Fleischmann
(Hans' mo's sister)

Thekla Hinterlein
(husb was Ruth's mo's bro)

all 4 died
in concentration
camps

22



Judge Dr Max Hö'lein
Rudi (mo's bro.)

Erich
Dr. Lutz

All died
in concentration
camps

Emma Lutz

Thekla Hötlein



Shuster
Edith Stein
Fred Habermann

Emil Kohnstam + wife
(bro of Hans father)
lived + died in London.

24

7



Fredl Leis & her husband Dr. Barack

Edith Schuster

Fred Habermann

All 4 came to U.S.

TODAY IN WORLD NEWS | India running out of patience with Pakistan

Englewood Sun

AND WEEKLY Herald

VOL. 110 NO. 145 | AN EDITION OF THE SUN | www.sun-herald.com | 50 CENTS

SATURDAY
MAY 25, 2002

Judge gives Panitz life

'Jerry Springer' killer given the maximum sentence allowed

By JENA HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

SARASOTA — Ralf Panitz received a life sentence Friday for murdering his ex-wife, who was found fatally beaten hours after an episode of the "Jerry Springer Show" featuring their violent love triangle aired.

Twelfth Circuit Court Judge Nancy Donnellan sentenced Panitz, 42, to life in prison without parole for the second-degree murder of Nancy Campbell-Panitz. He was also sentenced to time served for the additional charge of violation of a domestic violence injunction.

Panitz did not appear in court at the Sarasota County Justice Center, but instead watched his sentencing on television in a nearby holding cell. His current wife, Eleanor, said he was on a hunger strike to protest his confinement at the Sarasota County Jail.

When Donnellan did not appear at the scheduled time, and the attorneys were called to the back room, it appeared to be business as usual for the trial, the guilt phase of which included more than 300 bench conferences between attorneys and the judge. The trial ended March 23.

Later, Donnellan told the almost full courtroom that Panitz had chosen not to appear at the sentencing.

Eleanor Panitz said her husband has been on a hunger strike for three weeks, protesting his separation from other inmates and being deprived of his "religious solace."

"He is drinking fluids, and he has lost 25 pounds," she said. "He is not asking for a lot. All this does not mean he has given up his right to be a Christian. He wants to attend night ministry."

The judge gave Panitz the maximum sentence allowed under Florida law for second-degree murder, saying he showed no remorse for the July 24, 2000, slaying of Campbell-Panitz, who was found beaten, strangled and stomped in the face.

Holding up a grisly photograph of Campbell-Panitz's beaten face, Donnellan said a life sentence is the "only just sentence."

The judge also had harsh words for the Springer show, which had featured the warring couple and Eleanor Panitz in the episode titled "Secret Mistresses Confronted."

Please see PANITZ, page 4



Academy owners leap to new digs

When Lesli Golonka heard Englewood Dance Academy was going to close, she did more than just start looking around for a new dance school for her daughter – she teamed up with the dance teacher and bought the school.

• See BUSINESS page 1

SPORTS

No lead is too safe

After leading by as many as 26 points Friday night, Sacramento found itself fighting to the end to fend off Los Angeles at the Staples Center.

• See SPORTS page 1

NATIONAL NEWS



Whistle-blower: FBI rewrote warrants

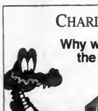
An FBI whistle-blower alleges FBI headquarters rewrote Minnesota agents' pre-Sept. 11 request for surveillance and search warrants for terrorism defendant Zacarias Moussaoui and removed important information before rejecting them, government officials said Friday.

• See FRONT page 2

Other headlines:

- White House orders staffers to turn over Enron documents. See FRONT page 2
- Florida's urban sprawl no match for lovelorn gators. See FRONT page 10
- Rumsfeld: Iraq attack not imminent. See FRONT page 9

TODAY'S WEATHER



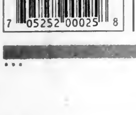
Partly cloudy skies and warmer.

High: 90
Low: 71

INDEX

CHARLIE SAYS ...

Why would anyone steal the tail off a pony?



50¢

7 05252 00025 8

Anne Frank was ...



HIS BABY SITTER



Photo provided

Better days: Pieter Kohnstam is pictured with his mother and grandmother before the Germans forced the family to flee.

Pieter Kohnstam's family fled the Holocaust

> "The only thing the Nazis left a Jew was hope and faith. These were the only things they couldn't take away."
> — Pieter Kohnstam, Cape Haze

By DON MOORE
SENIOR WRITER

AS A CHILD, Pieter Kohnstam of Cape Haze grew up in Amsterdam, the Netherlands during the late 1930s and early '40s. His family lived in an apartment house at 17 Merweidenlein Street in a lovely area in the southern part of the city.

Above them in the complex lived Otto Frank and his family. The Franks had two daughters. Anne was the youngest of the girls. A few years later, she would write what would become "The Diary of Anne Frank."

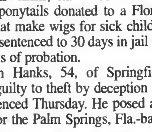
Anne Frank was his babysitter.

"I was born in Amsterdam in 1936. In those days, people there had a happy life," Kohnstam said. "In front of our apartment house was a little park. There were lots of children in the neighborhood who played there.

"Anne would take me to the park after school. I went to the same Montessori school she attended. She was 10 or 11, and I was 4 or 5," he said.

Although Anne was not yet a teen-ager, she was mature for her age, Kohnstam said. She was responsible.

Please see KOHNSTAM, page 8



Sun photo by Jeffrey Langlois

> "Anne would take me to the park after school. I went to the same Montessori school she attended. She was 10 or 11, and I was 4 or 5."
> — Kohnstam

Historic pact in the books

Amid tensions on Iran issue, Bush, Putin sign arms control treaty

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — Beneath the Kremlin's gleaming domes, President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the biggest arms-reduction treaty in history on Friday, writing a friendly postscript to their nations' Cold War rivalry.

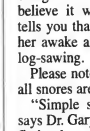
But before the ink had dried on their 10-year pact, the leaders were struggling to keep Russia's nuclear ties to Iran from straining their new partnership. "Our nations must spare no effort at preventing all forms of proliferation," Bush said as his aides considered offering incentives to win Russia's cooperation.

Elbow to elbow with Putin in the gilded St. Andrews Hall, Bush said the treaty-signing ceremony "ended a long chapter of confrontation and opened up an entirely new relationship between our countries."

Please see PACT, page 4

Snooze alarm: Snoring could be a problem

By JEAN PRESCOTT
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS



TV commercials for breathing strips are a hoot, but only if you sleep alone or with someone who doesn't snore, and statistics tell us that is highly unlikely. Studies say about a third of the population is afflicted.

It's true. Nearly 50 percent of all men and more than a quarter of all women snore. The Wisconsin Sleep Cohort Study of a few years back brings us these figures, so believe it when your partner tells you that you keep him or her awake all night with your log-sawing.

Please note, though, that not all snores are created equal.

"Simple snoring is noise," says Dr. Gary Rodberg, a certified sleep physician, pulmonary specialist and critical

Please see ALARM, page 4

Man who stole 96 ponytails gets 30 days in jail

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELLEVILLE, Ill. — A man who stole 96 ponytails donated to a Florida charity that make wigs for sick children has been sentenced to 30 days in jail and 18 months of probation.

Melvin Hanks, 54, of Springfield, pleaded guilty to theft by deception and was sentenced Thursday. He posed as a courier for the Palm Springs, Fla.-based nonprofit organization Locks of Love and persuaded a Belleville beauty salon to give him 72 ponytails over the course of nearly a year. Springfield police found 96 ponytails at his home.

Hanks was exposed after employees at the 17th Street Designer's Club called Locks of Love to complain about his rude behavior.

The hair Hanks stole is worth $21,300, Locks of Love has said.

Locks of Love offers free custom-made wigs to children who lost their hair because of illness or injury.

Hanks was given credit for the 15 days he has served in the county jail after his arrest on Feb. 14. He also must undergo a mental health evaluation.

When asked why he took the hair, Hanks said he didn't want to comment.

IN BRIEF

Apartment blast blamed on gas leak

LOS ANGELES — A preliminary investigation indicates that a gas leak sparked an explosion and fire at a three-story residential complex in the San Fernando Valley on Friday that critically injured a man.

"We have nothing further to indicate that there was any other source," Deputy Fire Chief Jim Hill said.

There was no sign of any connection to a recent federal warning that terrorists could target apartment buildings.

"I thought it was an earthquake, but there was no aftershock," said Bob Morris, 52, who was working in a building on the other side of the block. "I ran to the parking lot and I saw this guy, his clothes were tattered and there was a lot of blood."

Five hurt as fist fight turns into gunfire

SAN FRANCISCO — Five people, including an elderly bystander, were wounded Friday when a fist fight led to gunfire and a stabbing, authorities said.

Two men were fighting when one pulled out a gun and shot the other, police said. It was not clear how the others were wounded, though a hospital official said at least one was hit by a stray bullet.

Rodriguez said three others in the hospital had been shot, including one in serious condition with a chest wound. She said another victim had been stabbed in the chest.

Probation for teacher after sex with boy, 13

HACKENSACK, N.J. — Declaring no harm had been done, a judge spared a teacher who admitted having a sexual relationship with a 13-year-old student from prison time.

A state legislator, outraged by the decision, said the judge should be removed from the bench.

Pamela Diehl-Moore, 43, pleaded guilty to sexual assault in January. Prosecutors had expected her to be sentenced to three years in prison.

"We are talking about a sexual assault of a little boy," prosecutor Martin Delaney said at Wednesday's sentencing. "We need to send a message to these people that this is unacceptable and you will pay with your liberty."

Holiday travelers now prefer to drive

LOS ANGELES — Terrorism fears aren't expected to keep Americans off the road Memorial Day weekend, but many travelers are expected to avoid the skies, despite discounts from major airlines.

An estimated 35.2 million people will be traveling during the three-day weekend, a slight increase over last year, according to the American Automobile Association.

Most, about 29.3 million, will go by motor vehicle, up from 28.7 million last year, the AAA said. But the association expects the number of air travelers to drop to 4.1 million from 4.4 million in 2001.

Same guy, same hole, same jail escape

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A murder suspect who escaped from jail 11 years ago broke out again using the same hole in the same fence.

"You just scream when you hear something like that," said chief jailer Marron Hopkins.

David Ivy, 30, escaped May 16 by crawling through a hole in a fence around an inmate recreation area on the Shelby County jail roof and climbing down a drainpipe. Jailers could not explain why the hole had not been repaired. It has now been closed.

— From wire reports

WHISTLE-BLOWER AGENT QUESTIONS TOP BRASS

FBI changed report on terror suspect

Rowley says Washington removed important information

WASHINGTON (AP) — An FBI whistle-blower alleges FBI headquarters rewrote Minnesota agents' pre-Sept. 11 request for surveillance and search warrants for terrorism defendant Zacarias Moussaoui and removed important information before rejecting them, government officials said Friday.

Agent Coleen Rowley wrote that the Minnesota agents became so frustrated by roadblocks erected by terrorism supervisors in Washington that they began to joke that FBI headquarters was becoming an "unwitting accomplice" to



AP photos

Puzzled: Minneapolis FBI agent Coleen Rowley said her colleagues were frustrated by headquarters.

Osama bin Laden's efforts to attack the United States, the officials said.

As new details emerged about the letter Rowley wrote to FBI Director Robert Mueller, key members of Congress sought to extend her whistle-blower protections and encouraged more agents to come forward.

And a joint panel of House and Senate members set the first hearings to examine what the government knew before Sept. 11 about terrorist threats and what mistakes it made.

"This (Rowley) letter documents exactly what headquarters knew and when, and how midlevel officials sabotaged the Moussaoui case before the attacks," Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said Friday.

Officials familiar with Rowley's memo said she alleged FBI headquarters terrorism supervisors rewrote the Minnesota office's warrant applications and affidavit and removed intelligence about Moussaoui before sending them to a legal office that then rejected them as insufficient.

She alleged that some of the revisions "downplayed" the significance of some intelligence linking Moussaoui to Islamic extremists, and blamed the changes on a flawed communication process.

Did Egyptian know attacks were coming?

SAN DIEGO (AP) — An Egyptian-born financial analyst charged in a nationwide stock swindle may have known about the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and tried to profit from them, a federal prosecutor said Friday.

Amr I. "Tony" Elgindy telephoned his broker on Sept. 10 and asked him to liquidate his children's $300,000 trust account, Assistant U.S. Attorney Ken Breen told a federal judge at Elgindy's detention hearing.

"He made a comment predicting the market would drop to 3,000" at a time when the Dow Jones stock index was at 9,600, Breen said. "Perhaps Mr. Elgindy had pre-knowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks."

Elgindy, 34, of Encinitas, was ordered held without bond on charges of racketeering, extortion and obstruction of justice. Before issuing the order, Magistrate Judge John Houston said he was going to "disregard" the suggestion that Elgindy had anything to do with the terror attacks.



What happened? Sen. Bob Graham, left, D-Fla., chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and Rep. Porter Goss, right, R-Fla., chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, listen to a reporter's question during a news conference announcing a series of fact-finding hearings to be held on "what happened before, on and after September 11 as it relates to the performance of the intelligence agencies, and to recommend reforms," Friday in the Capitol.

9/11 hearings will begin in early June

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — Pressured by calls for an independent investigation, the two congressional intelligence committee chairmen Friday announced an ambitious schedule of hearings to begin in less than two weeks into what happened before the Sept. 11 attacks.

Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., and Rep. Porter Goss, R-Fla., also said they will give special scrutiny to allegations by an FBI agent and counsel in Minneapolis that top FBI officials set up "roadblocks" to the investigation of Zacarias Moussaoui, later charged in the attacks.

The staff hired for the joint inquiry interviewed agent Coleen Rowley on Wednesday, and Graham and Goss praised her as a "whistle-blower" who had made an important contribution to the investigation.

"I would think she is someone high up on the list of people we would like to interview further and potentially call on as a witness," said Graham.

White House agrees to turn over Enron documents

WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The White House, responding to a subpoena from Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., ordered employees Friday to collect and surrender e-mail and documents related to communications with the Enron Corp.

White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales e-mailed the directive to each of the more than 1,500 employees in the Executive Office of the President. It was a much more vigorous response than the 204 questionnaires he sent out last month following a March 27 request for information about Enron contacts from Lieberman, the chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

Gonzales gave the employees a deadline of next Friday to deliver the documents to the White House Counsel's Office. A senior administration official said that after the material has been collected, the counsel's office will decide whether to claim executive privilege on any of the documents.

Lieberman's committee voted Wednesday to issue subpoenas after Democrats complained that the White House had not responded swiftly enough to his March 27 letter.

Four hours after the subpoena was delivered, the White House sent Lieberman a seven-page chronology drawn from the responses to the questionnaires. Lieberman called the information inadequate.

White House spokeswoman Anne Womack said Friday's directive did not constitute a reversal by the administration. "We always said that we would be willing to cooperate with reasonable requests," she said. "This is part of our ongoing effort to be helpful to Senator Lieberman."



AP photo

INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER

Graduates cheer as the the Blue Angels fly overhead at the start of the the Class of 2002 Naval Academy graduation ceremony Friday in Annapolis, Md.

Catholics worry about where their money goes

Hundreds of millions to settle sex suits

By RACHEL ZOLL

AP RELIGION WRITER

News the Milwaukee Archdiocese quietly paid $450,000 to settle a sexual misconduct claim against Archbishop Rembert Weakland is fueling Roman Catholic donors' suspicions their money is going not for church programs but to pay off abuse victims.

Church leaders have been assuring parishioners nationwide that their donations will not be tapped to settle the avalanche of molestation lawsuits filed since the clerical abuse crisis started in January.

But hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements have already been paid since the 1980s, in most cases confidentially. Some Catholics say the Weakland case is more evidence bishops need to make a full public accounting of these agreements so wary donors will continue to give.

"I think people are justifiably concerned about a payment of that nature being made to anyone," said Francis Butler, president of Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities.

Comcast sued for tracking customers' online browsing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Comcast Corp., the nation's third-largest cable company, is being sued in U.S. court in Michigan over accusations it violated a federal privacy law when it recorded the Web browsing activities of each of its 1 million high-speed Internet subscribers.

Lawyer Steven Goren of Bingham Farms, Mich., filed a class-action complaint against Comcast and its cable subsidiary Tuesday. Goren, who predicted "months or years" of litigation, is seeking attorney's fees plus damages of at least $100 per day for every Comcast subscriber during the period from December to Feb. 13, when Comcast pledged to stop the practice.

A Comcast spokesman did not return repeated phone calls Friday from The Associated Press. Comcast, which is seeking U.S. approval for a $45 billion merger with its largest rival, AT&T Broadband, previously has denied wrongdoing. It said no more information was recorded about Comcast customers than is common in the industry and no more than was needed to optimize its Internet network.

The AP reported in early February that Comcast had started recording each customer's visit to Web sites as part of a technology overhaul to save money and speed up its network. Comcast pledged to stop immediately a day later, after a consumer backlash and after Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., criticized the tracking in a letter to Comcast President Brian Roberts.

Goren, who usually handles medical malpractice cases, argues that Comcast violated the 1984 Cable Act, which prohibits companies from collecting personal information from customers without obtaining "prior written or electronic consent." The act was originally intended to protect the privacy of cable TV customers.

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IN BRIEF

Ex-cop gets max for running down family

NEW YORK — His wife's plea for leniency rejected, a former police officer was sentenced to five to 15 years in prison for a drunken-driving crash that killed a family of four.

Joseph Gray, 41, was led from the courtroom in handcuffs to begin his term after he received the maximum sentence Thursday. He apologized to the victims' families, who were in court for the sentencing.

"I think he's sorry," said Victor Herrera, whose pregnant wife was killed in the crash. "But I also believe that's too late for us."

According to prosecutors, Gray was on a 12-hour drinking binge that began in the parking lot of the 72nd Precinct and led to the Wild Wild West topless bar before he drove his minivan into the family as they crossed a Brooklyn street last Aug. 4.

Maria Herrera was killed along with her 4-year-old-s, Andy, and her 16-year-old-ster, Dilcia Pena, when Gr sped through a red light. Herrera delivered a son, Ricardo, after the accide, but he died within hours of rth.

Rare third mistral in Jewish murder ase

PITTSBURGH — third mistrial was declaredr a man accused of killi a Canadian rabbinical udent in 1986 because he wa Jewish.

After a day of deerations, the jury said Thursy it could not reach a unanimus verdict on whether Steven. Tielsch killed Neal S. Rosblum, 24, of Toronto.

After the rulin Tielsch hugged his sobbg mother. He made no coment as he led back to Alleeny County jail.

Defense attoey William Difenderfer sa he was disappointed Tielse did not win acquittal.

"I think the evidence in this case was horole," he said. "I'm surprisl they couldn't come back th a verdict."

Unshakable witness key to Skakel trial

NORWALK, Conn. — Despite dense challenges, a prosecuth witness insisted Friday th Kennedy cousin Michael Skakel never left his Greenwh neighborhood the night Mrtha Moxley was beaten death.

Andr Shakespeare Renna, a friendof one of Skakel's sisters, tetified May 9 that Skakel did not go with his brothers o a cousin's home, where th defense says Skakel was whe Moxley was killed.

Skakel 41, is on trial for murder, ccused of beating Moxley) death with a golf club in 975 when they were 15-year-ld neighbors in an upscale gated neighborhood of Greenwich.

On Fiday, defense attorney Michae Sherman played a tape of 1991 interview with investigtors, trying to show Renna as less certain of Skakel' whereabouts. On the tape, Rnna says she assumed Skakel tayed behind with a brothe Thomas, Moxley and anothe neighbor girl.

"I dn't see them leave, so I can't ell you who was in that ca" she said on the tape.

Renn, who had been visiting oneof Skakel's sisters the night o the slaying, said Friday hat even though she doesn't emember seeing Skakel nside his house, she still dosn't think he made the trip to is cousin's.

Shenan pressed her on what mde her so sure.

"Mynemory," she responded.

Proseutor Susann Gill also retesteclRenna on her recollection.

"Do ou have an abiding convicton that Michael was at the hore after the car left?" Gill asked, to which Renna replied: "Yes."

— From wire reports

EXPERTS OFFER A NEW AND DIRE SCENARIO

World's oil supply will peak in 2010

UPPSALA, Sweden (AP) — Global suplies of crude oil will peak as erly as 2010 and then start to dcine, ushering in an era of soring energy prices and economi upheaval — or so said an international group of petroleu specialists meeting Friday.

The hope to persuade oil-depedent countries like the Unite States to stop what they view as a squandering the planet's finite bounty of fossil fuels.

Americans, as the biggest coumers of energy, could suffer a particularly harsh impact their lifestyle, warned particants in the two-day conference on oil depletion that began Thursday at Uppsala University in Uppsala, Sweden.

"There is no factual data to support the general sense that the world will be awash in cheap oil forever," said Matthew Simmons, an investment banker who helped advise President Bush's campaign on energy policy. "We desperately need to find a new form of energy."

Colin Campbell, a retired geologist who helped organize the conference, argued that governments are too caught up in short-term issues to focus on the long-term threat of depleted oil reserves. Oil companies prefer not to talk about it for fear of upsetting their investors, he said.

Their warning defies the more commonly held view that global crude reserves will remain plentiful for decades. Critics say similar predictions of scarcity at the time of the 1973-74 Arab oil embargo didn't come true.

"There's a lot of phony baloney in there," said economist Michael Lynch of the U.S. business forecasting firm DRI-WEFA. "A lot of prominent geologists just laugh at this."

"There are wolves out there, but if you keep crying wolf and no wolves show up, you start to lose credibility," Lynch said by phone from his office in Lexington, Mass.

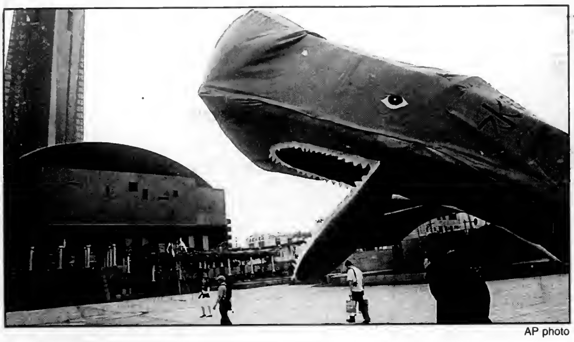
The dispute centers on the precise timing of what is variously described as "peak oil" or "the big rollover" — the predicted date when existing oil production, together with new discoveries of crude, can no longer replenish the world's reserves as quickly as consuming countries are depleting them.

Roger Bentley, head of The Oil Depletion Analysis Center in London, insisted that the predictions made in the 1970s were basically correct. About 50 countries, including the United States, have already passed their point of peak oil output, he said.

The world's total reserves of crude, excluding oil found in shale and tar sands, are estimated to exceed 3 trillion barrels, according to the U.S. Geological Survey and other conventional sources of data.

Campbell insisted the true figure for reserves is closer to 2 trillion barrels, due partly to what he described as overstated reserves reported by Saudi Arabia and other OPEC nations.

He played down the significance of new oil discoveries in the Caspian Sea region of central Asia and in deep waters off the coasts of Brazil and West Africa and in the Gulf of Mexico. Now that geologists have effectively surveyed the globe for crude, Campbell and others at the conference said they doubted that any giant new oil fields still await discovery.



AP photo

A whale of a protest: A whale tries to gulp Kaikyo Messe, the venue of the 54th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission, on Friday in Shimonoseki, Japan. The whale is actually worn by American member Ben White, not shown, of the animal rights group Animal Walfare Institute during the group's protest action on the final day of the IWC meeting in this former Japanese whaling hub.

Eskimos lose meals at conference

SHIMONOSEKI, Japan (AP) — Whaling officials rejected Friday a U.S. request to allow Alaskan Eskimos to hunt whales, eliciting an angry response from American delegates who said it will affect Eskimo livelihoods.

The United States had asked the International Whaling Commission at its annual meeting in Japan to renew a quota allowing the Eskimos to hunt 55 bowhead whales over five years.

But the request received 32 votes in favor and 11 opposed on Friday, the final day of the meeting, short of the three-fourths majority of the IWC's 48 members needed to pass. The proposal was initially rejected by delegates on Thursday, but an amended version was resubmitted Friday.

The rejections were widely seen as payback for opposition by the United States, Britain and other nations to Tokyo-led attempts to lift the IWC's commercial whaling ban. The IWC on Thursday denied a proposal to end the 1986 ban.

Before this week's votes, aboriginal hunting quotas had never been denied since the body began ruling on the issue in the early 1970s.

"In the history of the IWC, it was the most unjust, unkind and unfair vote that was ever taken," said Rolland Schmitten, the head of the U.S. delegation. "That vote literally denied people to feed their families."

George Ahmaogak, whose Inupiat people in Alaska were included in the quotas, said the 7,500 Inupiats in Alaska have depended on the whale hunts for millenia.

"This vote was very disappointing. It's an unfortunate day for us," Ahmaogak said. "Whale provides a lot of nutritional needs for our people, and once we lose that we're in bad shape."

A similar measure allowing the United States' Makah Indians to hunt four gray whales annually, rejected by the IWC on Thursday, was approved Friday in a fresh ballot. Russia's request for 120 gray whales annually for its indigenous Chukotka people was voted down.

Japan had blasted the U.S. request as hypocritical. It said that if such kills are approved, Japan should be granted the right to coastal whaling.

The quota for the Eskimos has been at the center of a disagreement between nations for and against whaling that has raised concerns about a deadlock at the IWC annual meeting in this former Japanese whaling hub.

In closed-door talks late Thursday, the United States and Japan seemed close to a compromise after the initial rejection of the proposal. U.S. delegates also appeared to have swayed other nations initially opposed to the quotas.

But when the new aboriginal quotas request went to a vote Friday, Japan, Mongolia and several Caribbean nations again voted against it.

On Friday, the United States and Russia resubmitted the requests under two separate proposals. The one on Makah whaling rights was approved. The other, which would have reduced the Inupiat Eskimos' haul by one bowhead whale and renewed the Russian Chukotka quota, was voted down.

Japanese officials opposed the requests after Japan was denied the right Tuesday to let four coastal whaling towns catch a total of 50 minke whales from nearby waters.

American officials say aboriginal whaling differs from Japan's coastal whaling because there is no commercial benefit.

Andres Rozental, head of the Mexican delegation, lashed out at nations that voted against the quotas, saying the vote "had absolutely nothing do with the purpose and origins of aboriginal whaling and everything to do with politics."

FAA has a new plan to cut airline delays

HERNDON, Va. (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration marked the beginning of the summer travel season with new steps to reduce airline delays.

FAA Administrator Jane Garvey came to the nation's air traffic control center here Friday to outline the agency's latest efforts to make the planes fly on time, from new air routes to more frequent weather updates.

"If the weather cooperates, travelers should arrive at their destinations on time," Garvey said, speaking on the day before the Memorial Day weekend, the traditional kick-off of the summer travel season.

Garvey said there were no specific terrorist threats against U.S. airlines. She reminded passengers that they needed to get to airports earlier than in the past because of new airline security measures imposed following the terrorist attacks.

"The heightened security measures mean it will take a little longer to get through the airport," Garvey said.

Once the planes are aloft, they can take advantage of new routes through Canadian air space, through areas formerly reserved for the military, and over the Atlantic Ocean for north-south East Coast flights, such as Boston to Miami.

The extra paths will allow airplanes to fly around thunderstorms, rather than have to be held on the ground at airports.

"Some weather is just plain unsafe," Garvey said. "But we can manage severe weather operations better."

ANN FRANK WAS ...

HIS BABY SITTER

★ KOHNSTAM

From page 1

"One day I had my scooter in the park. I fell in the dirt, chin first, and split my chin open," he recalled. "I was bleeding. Anne got all excited. She took me to my mother.

"My mother was pretty cool. She brought me to the hospital and they sewed me up."

Kohnstam stuck his chin in the air. Underneath was a thin, white scar 2 or 3 inches long.

"This is my Anne Frank souvenir," he added proudly.

Steve Goldman, director of the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg, said Thursday, "We know Kohnstam, and we believe his story to be true."

The beginning

The Franks and the Kohnstams were German Jews. The Franks were from Frankfurt and the Kohnstams from Nuremberg.

Nuremberg is a 1,000-year-old medieval city in Bavaria, about 100 miles northwest of Munich. The old walled section of the city looks like something from a German fairytale. Noted for toy making and ginger cookies, it also has a sinister past.

Beginning in 1933, Nuremberg became the site where the Nazis held their annual convention. Captured on film by German propagandists were goose-stepping Nazi soldiers with fiery torches marching at night in the mammoth Nuremberg Colosseum.

It's also remembered as the city where the Third Reich passed the Nuremberg Race Laws. They took away the Jews', and later, other minorities', civil rights. The victorious Allied powers held the Neuremberg Trials there after the war to punish Nazis for their "crimes against humanity."

Both families left Germany for Amsterdam to escape Nazi persecution. In those days, Amsterdam was an open city. The Netherlands was a neutral country with a small army. It was trying not to be drawn into the coming European war.

"My father was an artist. My grandfather owned a very successful toy manufacturing and merchandising company, M. Kohnstam & Sons. It was headquartered in Nuremberg with offices in Dresden, Amsterdam, and London," Kohnstam said.

The Nazis

"My mother and father were married in an old Gothic synagogue in Nuremberg in 1933. It was later destroyed by the Nazis.

"Already, in 1933, the National Socialists Party (Nazis) was on the rise in Germany. One day, my father received a letter saying he had been accused of being a spy. He immediately sent my mother to Amsterdam, because the Netherlands was neutral and the family had a business office there," Kohnstam said.

For the first few years the family enjoyed an idyllic life in Amsterdam. Then Hitler's armies became restless. In 1936, the soldiers of the Third Reich marched into the Rhineland, in violation of the Versailles Treaty that ended World War I.

Two years later, Germany annexed Sudetenland. The next year, on Sept. 1, 1939, the Wehrmacht invaded Poland. Britain and France declared war against Hitler's Reich, starting World War II.

By mid-May 1940 Rotterdam was bombed by the Germans. A short time later, the army of the Netherlands surrendered to the Nazi hordes. The Germans had already invaded Denmark and Norway and were on the verge of taking on the French.

Enemy arrives

"When the Germans marched into Amsterdam, it wasn't long until things became more and more difficult for the Jews and other people who were minorities," Kohnstam remembered. "We had to wear a yellow Star of David on our clothes. We could only go out to the store and the bank once a week, on the Sabbath, Friday. There was no more school and no more going to the park.

"The Nazis started rounding people up on the streets and taking them off to concentration camps. I remember seeing a flatbed truck that was hauling a bunch of naked women and children on a cold, rainy day in the winter.

"German soldiers broke down our neighbors' door where eight older people lived with a few children. The only thing the soldier left was one bed. They returned several days later and killed everybody right there in the house.

"A doctor in our neighborhood committed suicide. Lots of people were killing themselves," he said.

Because neither the Frank family nor the Kohnstam family could go out much, they became avid bridge players. Almost every evening one family would come to the other's apartment to play cards.

"We'd also listen to the BBC's broadcast on the radio," he said. "I still recall, all Allied broadcasts began by playing the first bars of Beethoven's 'Fifth Symphony.'"

The terror

"There was a constant fear among the Jews of Amsterdam and other residents. You didn't know when the Nazis would come to your house and drag you out. Whenever there was one of those incidents, you would pray it wouldn't be you. When it wasn't, you were happy. At the same time, you were sorry it was someone else," he said.

"It's hard to describe this constant apprehension to someone who wasn't there," Kohnstam said. "The Germans not only tried to terrorize people, they tried to strip them of their dignity.

"Any day on the streets of Amsterdam, there was blood, rape and murder. It required a lot of courage to be a Jew and survive against this.

"The only thing the Nazis left a Jew was hope and faith. These were about the only things they couldn't take away," he said.

The letter

Conditions in Amsterdam had become almost intolerable for Jews since the Germans arrived in the city two years earlier. By 1942, both the Franks and the Kohnstams were trying to find a way to escape. The Franks decided to go into hiding in Amsterdam, but the Kohnstams still didn't have a definite plan.

"One Friday my parents received a letter from the Nazis that told them the family had to report to the Amsterdam train station. We were about to be transported to Terezienstadt, a slave labor camp in Czechoslovakia.

"My family had a meeting with my grandmother about the crisis," he said. "She put it very succinctly: 'If you leave, there's a chance you may survive. If you don't, there's no chance of surviving.'"

But how were they to get out of Amsterdam? How were they to get out of the Netherlands before the Nazis took them into custody?

"My mother was much involved in fashion design. She had this good Christian friend, Gerva Leske, who worked with her. She told her friend about our deportation troubles. Her friend had an idea.

"They would put on a mock fashion show in Maastricht, located along the Netherlands-Belgium border. My mother would be the fashion designer for the show and my father the dress designer. I would become Gerva's child, during our escape.

"So off we went to the railroad station, all of us pretending to be someone we weren't. We all were traveling in the same railroad car, but not sitting together, except for me and Gerva. I was not supposed to make eye contact with my mother. I remember I did. My mother looked aside, as if to say, 'Don't look at me,'" Kohnstam recalled.

With luck and chutzpah, the family made it across the border into Belgium.

Their escape

"We had no money, no official documents and only the clothes on our backs as we started to walk south toward Spain (1,150 miles away)," he said.

Their escape took them from Amsterdam to Maastricht in the Netherlands; Verviers and Antwerp in Belgium; Paris, Lille, Arras, Blois, Chateauroux, Valenciennes, Gers and Perpignan in France; Figueras, Spain, and finally to Barcelona, where they hoped to board a ship for Argentina.

"It was a walk through hell. The Gestapo was sent to find us and others who escaped the Czechoslovakian slave labor camp. A man wearing a black hat and a black coat was standing beside my father in a packed subway car in Paris. My father knew he was Gestapo.

"This man had been an acquaintance of his back in Amsterdam. He was the one sent to capture my father. He looked at him a moment, but never took him in," Kohnstam said.

It was a strange time to be a Jew.

Despite the harshness of their nine-month flight across Europe in search of freedom, there were some bright spots.

"A few people along the way helped us out," he said. "Most of them were Christians who gave us food, shelter and a little money. A French woman let us stay in her barn for a while. Even a German or two helped us."

Sea voyage

"Argentina had never been on the map for us, but it was almost impossible for a Jew to enter the United States in those days without money or connections," he said. "America was an isolationist country back then.

"My mother had a cousin who lived in Argentina. That was our connection there."

They were able to board a ship for Latin America in early 1943. It was July before it docked in Buenos Aires, Argentina. When they arrived, the family was wearing the same clothes they had escaped in nine months earlier.

Kohnstam was 7 by then. He would be 27 before he left Argentina for the United States. He eventually became a banker working for Chase Manhattan Bank's Latin American Division in New York City. Later a better opportunity came his way. He went to work for a chemical company, a firm he stayed with for 28 years. He retired two years ago and came to Charlotte County.

"It was a miracle" the family escaped from the Germans, Fred Haberman, Kohnstam's uncle, said.

Haberman was born and raised in Nuremberg and now lives in Walnut Grove, Calif. His family left Germany and came to the States in 1935.

"When your classmates wouldn't talk to you anymore, you knew it was time to leave," Haberman recalled. "In Nuremberg, before we left, the Nazis were marching, beating drums and demonstrating."

After coming to America, Kohnstam's uncle became a member of the U.S. 13th Regiment of the 8th Infantry Division during WWII. His job was to interrogate recently captured German soldiers.

After the war, Haberman and his wife sponsored his nephew's immigration to the States.

His views

"It's amazing that Germans, who were seemingly intelligent and cultured, could burn synagogues and books," Kohnstam said. "They could ostracize and kill professors, musicians, writers and artists. They could destroy everything that was culturally beneficial."

In 1947, Anne Frank's diary of her time in hiding was published. Later, the book was the basis for several movies, a play and a television show.

"I'm sure it's a very well-written book, but I decided not to read it," the 65-year-old said. "The book was a big emotional thing for me."

However, he has seen the play and parts of one of the movies in recent years.

"In addition to Anne's book, there are many other good stories about the Holocaust that have not been published. I think everyone who survived has a duty to tell their story," Kohnstam said. "I hope some day all these stories can be collected and put together on a computer for future generations to read.

"There were 6 million Jewish people massacred during WWII for no other reason than their religion. The total number of people killed goes way beyond that. It's something like 20 million or 25 million, depending on whose figures you use," he said.

"Who were these other 15-to-20 million people? Who cries for them?"

No escape

Anne Frank and most of her family did not survive the war. She died at 15 from typhus in Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp in Northwestern Germany in March 1945, eight weeks before the war's end in Europe. Only Otto, her father, would escape death at the hands of the Nazis. He returned to Amsterdam, where a friend gave him Anne's diary.

"The Diary of Anne Frank" has been published in 57 languages. It is one of the most popular books ever written.

You can e-mail Don Moore at moore@sun-herald.com

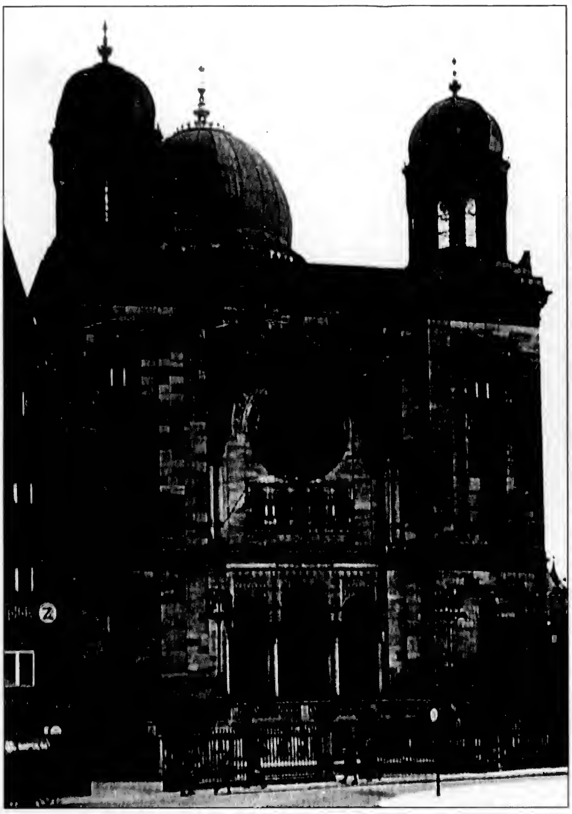


Photo provided

Long gone: This was the Haut Synagogue in Nuremberg, Germany, where Kohnstam's parents were married in 1932. It was one of 275 synagogues destroyed throughout Germany and Austria by the Nazis on "Kristall Nacht," Aug. 10, 1939. (Information provided by the National Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.)



Photo provided

All smiles: Kohnstam and his mother enjoy a happy moment before the Germans marched into Amsterdam.



Sun photo by Don Moore

The real thing: Kohnstam holds a shadowbox with two Stars of David like the ones he and his family wore during World War II. At the top is a slice of bread to remind him how short of food his family was during their flight from the Netherlands.

Holocaust Museum located in St. Pete

The Florida Holocaust Museum is located at 55 Fifth St. South in St. Petersburg. It's open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 1-(800) 960-7448.

End of Pieter Kohnstam Family Collection